

Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call Meeting Notes

Friday, January 22nd, 2021 (Next meeting 2/12/2021; participation details last item on this summary)

Meeting hosted by De’Kendra Stamps, FoodShare Outreach Program Director, Feeding Wisconsin; led by Jennifer Putzer, Food Security Specialist, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Thanks to Feeding Wisconsin for hosting calls, and posting information to the FW website. Call support folks distributing food to needy households by providing information, providing an ear for challenges and ideas for solutions of practical problems.

COVID-19 Update:

- 525,924 reported cases compared to 494,747 on January 8th, 2021. There are 23,904 (**27,843**) active cases. 5,512 Wisconsinites have died since the COVID-19 Pandemic began. It is significant that both the southeastern and south central part of the state have seen a 13% shrinkage in hospitalizations between 1/6- 1/19/21. The rest of the state has stayed the same.
- **1,285 (2,924)** people reportedly had a confirmed case on 1/19/21..

Food Supply Update:

- The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) deadline was on December 11th, 2020. **Currently, there is no further update on the program applications.** This program provides direct financial assistance due to market disruptions and associated costs due to COVID-19. This phase has increased eligible commodities. Application acceptance began on 9/21/20. Services are available to help you apply.
[https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAMS/bulletins/2ab7720 \(OLD\)](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAMS/bulletins/2ab7720)
- The Fifth Round of Farm to Families Food Box was announced on January 4th, 2021. The latest round of support will provide an additional 1.5 billion dollars worth of food added to the already 132 million utilized in the first 4 rounds of this program. The boxes will be filled with fresh produce, dairy, fluid milk and meat as well as seafood products, which is a new addition in the fifth round. So far, this program has distributed over 133 million food boxes.

Contracts were announced earlier this week. Produce Alliance has a multistate contract one of which is Wisconsin. They will be working with partners across the state to get food out to communities exhibiting the greatest need. Communications with the state office on where and how much food will be landing in designated areas would be appreciated. This allows TEFAP to distribute their food accordingly.

[https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/01/04/usda-announces-continuation-farmers-families-food-box-program-fifth.](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/01/04/usda-announces-continuation-farmers-families-food-box-program-fifth)

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Food Benefits and FoodShare Access:

- Maximum benefits established plus 15% increase in FoodShare benefits for individuals who are eligible for the program.
- Some FoodShare members may get additional FoodShare benefits for January. Families not already receiving the maximum benefit amount based on the number of people in their household will receive these additional benefits. The benefits were placed on the QUEST card on January 24th.

Questions/Discussions:

Vaccination information:

248,185 vaccinations distributed so far. Primarily to frontline healthcare workers, skilled nursing facilities as well as assisted living facilities (Phase 1a). In addition, starting 1/25/21 Phase 1b will begin and includes, 65 and up, teachers and staff; grocery workers, prisoners and correctional workers; public transit workers and mink farmers.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>

Next Meeting: De’Kendra Stamps will host on Friday 2/12/2021 at 10AM. Jennifer Putzer will lead the meeting through the New Year.

How to participate in the calls: Dial: 267-930-4000; Enter Meeting ID: 904-416-028# then when it asks for your participant ID, press “#”. Food pantry operators, charitable feeding organizations, emergency response, and social service folks are the key constituents of these calls. During announcements, all participants can mute themselves by pressing mute on their phone or “*#6”.

Questions related to notes: Questions related to notes can go to jennifer.putzer@dhs.wisconsin.gov. For urgent questions about The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) email DHSTEFAP@dhs.wisconsin.gov. For Emergency food needs, dial 2-1-1, describe your need and location. Staff will assist you in locating food resources.